

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /075 W
----- 128319

R 101300Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1396

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 0 4 9

EO 116525

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, GW

SUBJ: VISIT OF WILLY BRANDT TO LENINGRAD

1. JULY 5-6 VISIT TO LENINGRAD OF FORMER FRG CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT AND WIFE WAS ENTIRELY
FF, BY PARTY OFFICIALS, LED BY G.V.
ROMANOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY ORGANIZATION (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF POLITBURO). WELCOMING COMMITTEE IN STATION WAS LITERALLY EVERYONE WHO COUNTS IN HIGHER CIRCLES HERE, WITH ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MENTIONED IN PRESS REPORTAGE LISTED WITH PARTY TITLES FIRST. THUS, IN ADDITION TO ROMANOV, BRANDT WAS MET BY: B.I. ARISTOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD CITY PARTY ORGANIZATION (AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER); A.N. SHIBALOV, CHAIRMAN OF OBLAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE; AND N.G. YELISEYEVA, A DEPUTY MAYOR WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL PARTY CONTROL COMMITTEE. WIVES OF ROMANOV AND ARISTOV ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING AND GREETING.

2. FRG CONSUL IN LENINGRAD INFORMED US THAT ROMANOV SPOKE ALMOST ENTIRELY, BUT IN STANDARD TERMS, ON SOVIET-FRG BILATERAL RELATIONS AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SCENE IN MEETING AT SMOLNYY (COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS). IMPRESSION WAS ONE OF CENTRAL
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PARTY FIGURE DEALING WITH SUCH IMPORTANT GUEST IN TERMS OF THE

BIG PICTURE. ROMANOV SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED CSCE AS GIVING
NEW IMPULSE TO COOPERATION IN EUROPE.

3. JUST AFTER BRANDT AND WIFE DEPARTED LENINGRAD AIRPORT FOR
NOVOSIBIRSK, ROMANOV TURNED TO FRG CONSUL AND SAID HE WAS LEAVING
RIGHT AWAY FOR MOSCOW TO ATTEND SESSION OF SUPREME SOVIET AND
WOULD BE SEEING BREZHNEV. "WHAT," HE JOKINGLY ASKED THE FRG
CONSUL, "SHALL I TELL LEONID IL'ICH ABOUT BRANDT'S VISIT TO
LENINGRAD?" OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUE QUICKLY REPLIED THAT THE VISIT
HAD BEEN A COMPLETE SUCCESS, AS INDEED IT WAS.

4. COMMENT: WE AND FRG COLLEAGUES HERE AGREE THAT VISIT BROUGHT
ROMANOV PLENTY OF WELCOME LIMELIGHT, FURTHER ENHANCING HIS CENTRAL
STATURE AND PROSPECTS FOR BECOMING FULL MEMBER OF POLITBURO.
NEUBERT

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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